**Analyse how the writer made a character or characters memorable in an extended written text you have studied**

**This one is really just ideas in response to the question …**

The Crucible contains a spectrum of characters, none of whom are perfect but some who are unusually toxic and all are memorable. They are Miller’s embodiment of his contempt of right-wing intellectuals, politicians and academics of the McCarthy era who profited by and collaborated with the communist witch-hunters. Abigail Williams, Thomas Putnam and Reverend Parris are purely evil. They cynically and systematically denounce others to achieve their own ends motivated by lust, venality and ambition. These characters are particularly memorable because they are a manifestation of the hatred and depravity of the McCarthyists.

McCarthyist inspired Putnam and Parris, in particular do not seem to be genuinely fearful of witchcraft; they are powerful men and see the events as an opportunity. Parris is self-serving, powe-hungry and is preoccupied with his own affairs while the fabric of the Salem society is being torn to shred; “Abigail, I have fought here three long years to bend these stiff-necked people to me, and now, just now when some good respect is rising for me in the parish, you compromise my very character”. Putnam is entirely venal, and therefore very memorable; bringing about his neighbours’ ruin for pure greed; as John Proctor says “He is killing his neighbour for his land”.

Another memorable character in The Crucible is Tituba, a West Indian servant. It is no coincidence that Tituba is the most marginalised, powerless and different person in the town, is the first to be blamed. The characters who first succumb to pressure to admit engaging in witchcraft do so through fear. Tituba and the town’s young girls are unsophisticated and vulnerable. Abigail deftly manipulates the situation to settle petty scores, gain attention and get what she wants without scruple. The girls are easily intimidated and whipped into hysteria by the much more worldly Abigail. She tells them “Let either of you breathe a word, or the edge of a word, about the other things, and I will come to you in the black of some terrible night and I will bring a pointy reckoning that will shudder you”. Miller certainly used Abigail’s blatantly toxic nature certainly makes her very memorable.